

Twenty-fourth Session
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Reports of liaison officers

**Report on the UNGEGN liaison with the
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research**

Report of the UNGEGN Liaison with the
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

To date 45 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty. About 30 countries carry out active scientific research programmes in the Antarctic. Place-names appear in 15 or more languages and five scripts. Gazetteers or lists of geographical names and guidelines for naming features in the Antarctic have been issued by some 22 countries in various grades of completeness.

In 1992 the need for a composite gazetteer of Antarctica was recognized, with the aim of bringing some order to the complex toponymy of Antarctica. Work began by collating existing gazetteers or lists of geographical names issued by countries adhering to SCAR as Full Members or Associate Members.

A printed version of the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) was published in 1998. Since then the CGA has also been accessible at the web site www3.pnra.it/SCAR_GAZE. It is updated quarterly.

Today 35,715 name entries are assigned to 18,022 different geographical features in the Antarctic (as of 1 April 2007). The collaborating countries in the CGA project are (listed as ISO three-letter code): ARG, AUS, BEL, BGR, CAN, CHL, CHN, DEU, ECU, ESP, FRA, GBR, IND, ITA, JPN, NOR, NZL, POL, RUS, URY, USA, ZAF, and the International Hydrographic Organization / International Oceanographic Commission.

A first Supplement to the CGA was printed in 2000, while in 2004 a second Supplement, superseding the first one, was printed and distributed at the SCAR Open Science Conference (Bremen, July 2004).

Recently, the Australian Antarctic Data Centre has linked the SCAR map catalogue, maintained at the AADC, with the SCAR CGA so that Antarctic place-names within any map can be listed. Maps can be identified and located via the gazetteer (<http://aadc-maps.aad.gov.au/>) with links to map retailers where this is known.

SCAR CGA links to scientific databases

The SCAR composite gazetteer is also linked to the SCAR Biodiversity Evolution and Biodiversity Program so that a search for scientific data may also be done via the gazetteer.